

REMARKS

Claims 55-74 are pending in the application.

Claims 55-74 have been rejected.

Claims 55, 65, and 70 have been amended.

Examiner Interview

Appreciation is expressed for the telephonic interview conducted on October 2, 2007 between Examiner Chai and Applicants' representatives. During the interview, the Cheng reference was discussed with regard to independent claims 55, 65, and 70. For the sake of more clearly distinguishing the present invention over the cited reference, Applicants have amended claims 55, 65, and 70 based on the Examiner's suggestions made during the interview.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 55-60, 62, 63, 65-68 and 70-73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cheng et al. (USPN 6,823,462) hereinafter referred to as ("Cheng"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have amended independent claims 55, 65, and 70 in order to more clearly distinguish the present invention over Cheng. Claims 55, 65, and 70 now include the limitation "said source user group is assigned to said source based on a role of said source." This amendment clarifies the role-based nature of the source user group claimed. *See e.g.*, Application, ¶ [0079]. This approach provides advantages at least in scalability, flexibility, and manageability of networks.

In contrast, Cheng does not provide role-based source user groups. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 55, 65, and 70, as amended, and all claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 61, 64, 69 and 74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Li (USPN 6,711,172) hereinafter referred to as ("Li"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 55, 65, and 70 have been amended to include the limitation that a source user group is assigned based on a role of the source. Applicants submit that, for reasons discussed above, the cited sections of Cheng fail to provide disclosure of such a limitation. Applicants further submit that Li is not cited for the proposition that it teaches role-based source user groups.

Claims 61, 64, 69 and 74 depend from independent claims 55, 65, and 70. Since neither Cheng nor Li, either alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest all the limitations of independent claims 55, 65, or 70, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 55, 65, and 70, and all claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the suggested combination of Cheng and Li.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 55, 65, and 70, as amended, and all claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5092.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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